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3 October 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board

SUBJECT: First Progress Report to OCB by the
Broadcast Evaluation Section

1. A Broadcast Evaluation Section was established in the Office of Scientific Intelligence to give effect to a requirement imposed on the Central Intelligence Agency by NSC-169. The latter paper provides that the establishment of the Evaluation Mechanism by CIA is to be "in conjunction with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Information Agency, and under the coordination of the Operations Coordinating Board."

2. In view of the latter statement, I have had prepared the attached "First Progress Report" for the information of the Board.

3. You will note that this report covers a summary of activities to date, the principal problems encountered, and measures taken and contemplated to obtain answers to them. It also includes, in Part II, an estimate of the technical effectiveness of U.S. broadcasting to Iron Curtain countries in general terms as we now see it, with a few examples of specific determinations. The general estimate is that in spite of the effort put into the jamming of U.S. international broadcasting, the effect of the jamming varies widely with frequency band, geographic location, and target language; and the programs are frequently reaching wide sections of the target areas. It is not feasible to make this estimate cover all aspects of target areas, frequency bands, times of day, sponsors, and languages because of the many combinations possible with differing qualifications as to certainty of the conclusion. Enough examples have been included, perhaps, to indicate the kind of specific questions which might be levied on the Broadcast Evaluation Section.

4. An important section in the report covers the question of interpretation of the statistical reports of the Broadcast Evaluation Section. Since the figures are derived from monitoring observations in a very special way, they must be used with understanding; and since the monitoring observations themselves are subject to several qualifications, these figures must be used with caution as well.


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5. Subsequent progress reports could be made annually if the Board feels such reporting is desirable. In that event, I would be glad to have the Board's suggestions as to the nature of future reports in order to make them as useful as possible.

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HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director

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